(ii) The remaining portion of term loans may be rescheduled similarly with a moratorium period up to one year depending upon the cash flow generating capacity of the unit.

(iii) The reschedulement/conversion may be completed on or before April 30, 2008.

(iv) The rescheduled/converted loans may be treated as current dues.

(v) After conversion as above, the borrower will be eligible for fresh need based finance.

(vi) The relief measures as above may be extended to all accounts of poultry industry, which were classified as Standard accounts as on December, 31, 2007.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has issued a similar circular in respect of cooperative banks and regional rural banks. All banks have started taking action on these circulars.

Housing loans for rural areas

1178. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated percentage of population covered by finance agencies for grant of housing loans;

(b) whether it is a fact that these finance agencies do not provide housing loans for rural areas;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government has considered the feasibility of authorizing panchayats for completion of formalities to facilitate grant of housing loans in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No estimates have been made by the Government on the percentage of population covered by financial agencies for grant of housing loans.

(b) According to information reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) the share of rural areas in total number of accounts for housing loans of SCBs was 16 per cent as on 31st March, 2006.

(c) One of the reasons for lower share of housing loans in rural areas as compared to other areas is that housing requirements in rural areas are also met through Government schemes like the Indira Awaas Yojana where assistance is given in the form of subsidy for dwelling units without necessarily involving financial agencies. Further, there is also a relatively larger dependence in rural areas on informal credit channels.

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government at present.

Growth rate in GDP

†1179. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Public Sector has been estimated to be Rs. 42,830,40 crores during the financial year 2007-08;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of growth in Gross Domestic Product has been about 13.0 per cent only whereas this growth was about 15.7 per cent during the year 2006-07 compared to its preceding year;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the decline in this growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) As per the Advanced Estimates of Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost, at current prices, has been estimated at Rs. 42,83,040 crore for the financial year 2007-08. It represents a growth of 13 per cent as against 15.7 per cent in 2006-07.

(e) The growth rate in 2007-08 declined due to general slow down in most of the sectors except electricity, community services and the composite category "trade, hotels, transport and communications". The deceleration in the growth of agricultural sector is attributed to the slackening in the growth of rabi crops. The slower growth of consumer durables was the most important factor in the slow down of manufacturing sector. Overall, there was a deceleration in the growth of public and private consumption which affected the growth of services sector, including construction.

Optimum capacity utilization of HMT unit at Ranibagh

†1180. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HMT unit at Ranibagh (Uttarakhand) is equipped with requisite capacity to produce equipments as well as the equipments being produced by the BHEL, at present;

(b) if so, whether the matter of placing orders by the Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Defence and BHEL to produce these equipments in order to make optimum use of the capacity of the unit is being considered;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the alternative steps being taken in order to keep this unit running?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The HMT Watches' unit at Ranibagh (Uttarakhand) is not equipped to produce equipments of BHEL.

(b) and (c) BHEL procures components form indigenous sources or through internal manufacturing. HMT Watches Limited, to which the Ranibagh Unit belongs, has to participate in competitive biddings to secure supply orders from BHEL and the ordnance factories under Ministry of Defence.

(b) Ranibagh factory is a sick unit of HMT Watches Limited. Salary and wages for workers are paid by the company through budgetary support of the Government of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.